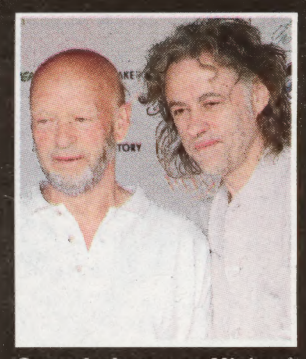
Insight

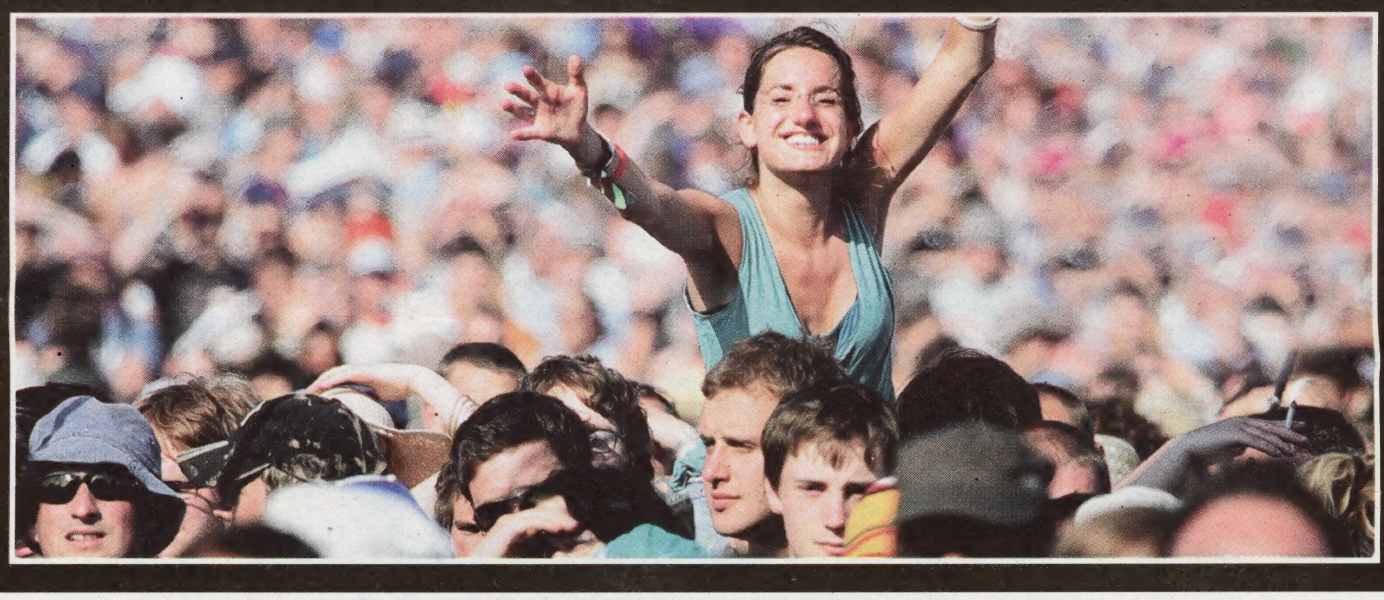
Live from the Glastonbury Festival

Mud made it special says overjoyed Eavis

Rain, mud, sunshine, wellies, beer and – of course – world-class music helped make this year's Glastonbury Festival one of the best ever. **CHLOE RIGBY** put her tent up with the rest of them this weekend at Michael Eavis's Worthy Farm.



Crowd-pleasers: Michael Eavis and Bob Geldof



Sunny smiles: As the weather got better the crowds enjoyed the music

REVELLERS at the Glastonbury Festival were packing up to leave this morning.

Advice from police had been to leave the Worthy Farm, Pilton site between midnight and 6am, but long queues were expected throughout the morning.

Despite the on-site mudbath caused by Friday morning's torrential downpour, police did not expect there to be problems with cars getting stuck as the ground they were parked on had drained well over the weekend.

Festival organisers had towtrucks on hand in case of breakdowns.

An army of rubbish collectors was starting work to clear debris before rotovators were due to move in to break up mud ahead of reseeding the farmland, which is expected to take three months.

Festival organiser Michael Eavis said that while it took a year to prepare for the festival and three days to hold it, it would now take three months for the land to recover completely.

Praising the teams who had dealt with the aftermath of flash floods resulting from Friday's rain, as well as those who would now restore the site, he said: "This is a fantastic training ground for dealing with a crisis.

"I have just about the best team of electricians in the world who have been working in Afghanistan and post-war Iraq as a result of their experience here."

And, despite the 479 people left without anywhere to sleep when rain and debris caused flooding in the Pennards Field campsite submerging an estimated 200 tents, he said the mud had brought something to the festival, making it one of the best ever.

Mr Eavis said: "Two inches of rain falling on Friday morning was a bit of a nightmare, but it didn't rain after that and since then it has been fantastic.

"If you had your wellies on to get through the mud, then it didn't make any difference to the show.

"Boring continuous heat and sun day after day makes people lethargic."

Over the weekend, festival stores reportedly sold more than 33,000 pairs of wellies.

Mr Eavis told how he had gone on Radio One on Friday to dispel rumours of a catastrophe onsite and said that that single interview seemed to have turned everything around, with festival-goers continuing to arrive.

On Saturday afternoon he took to the Pyramid Stage for the first time in the show's 35-year history to address the gathered crowds with Bob Geldof at the official launch of the Make Poverty History campaign.

The moment when the Glastonbury crowd called for G8 leaders to make poverty history was beamed worldwide.

Afterwards Mr Eavis said the moment was "scary" and one he had only gone ahead with because the cause was so important.

One person died at the festival on Friday night. He has since been named as 25-year-old Benjamin Shepherd, of Street, Somerset.

A post-mortem has yet to take place but police said they could not exclude the possibility of drugs or alcohol being involved.

Sergeant Frazer Davey, of Avon and Somerset Police, said: "Avon and Somerset police would like to express their condolences to the family."

At the height of the festival, on Saturday night, there were 152,000 people on the site, while a further 6,500 arrived for the day only.

It has been a Glastonbury festival of extremes: from roasting temperatures as crowds arrived on Wednesday and Thursday through to the downpours that caused Somerset fire teams to pump out three million litres of water in a rescue operation that continued while the festival went ahead.

Fire crews did not leave the site

Reviews

Coldplay, Pyramid Stage

MICHAEL Eavis personally asked Coldplay to headline Glastonbury 2005 when he bumped into Chris Martin in Regent Street last October.

On Saturday night, they proved they could meet the demands of that top billing.

They had the audience with them all the way through hits including the bestselling *Yellow*, *Science* and *Till Kingdom Comes*.

It takes a lot of sound to fill the arena in front of the Pyramid Stage and Coldplay does not always have the tunes that lend itself to that, but the crowd started out wanting the set to be a hit.

Quieter ballads including *Square One* and *Don't Panic* lent a more reflective mood, while the upbeat *Clocks* and *Politic* got the audience dancing.

The big hit, *Yellow*, was perhaps a somewhat lacklustre performance — but the crowd lapped it all up.

But it was not until the encore that the most sceptical watchers were won over.

Chris Martin helped make up for Kylie's absence with a spirited rendition of *Can't Get You Out of My Head*, bringing every onlooker alive and dancing, before going into *How Long Must I Wait* and ending with *Fix You*.

On Sunday, Michael Eavis ranked the set as one of his top seven all-time Glastonbury moments

His admiration for the band is returned — at one point Martin and the rest of the group rolled up their trousers to show the world they had Eavis' name written on their knees.

Saturday's audience would, I think, have agreed with Eavis.

The performance may not always have been flawless but it was energetic. And as one of the world's biggest bands, Coldplay has the sheer presence to meet the weight of 100,000 Glastonbury fans' expectations.

Being in the crowd as everyone sang and danced to Kylie by Coldplay was a stunning experience.

Rating: ★★★★★

CHLOE RIGBY

New Order, Pyramid Stage

FROM the opening chords of *Crystal*, New Order had the crowd on its feet.

An unusually chatty Bernard Sumner swept into opening classic *Regret* before moving back to Joy Division times with *Dance to the Radio*, played in memory of former singer Ian Curtis, who died 25 years ago. Standard New Order tunes from *True Faith* and *Run Wild* alternated with newer tracks, all played with a vigour that had the audience dancing.

Love Will Tear Us Apart was dedicated to John Peel, the veteran DJ and Glastonbury regular who died last year.

Then the crowd got more than it bargained for, with the appearance of Scissor Sisters singer *Ana Matronic* proving that not all Glastonbury rumours are apocryphal — and lending a touch of high glamour to the performance of recent single *Jet Stream* on which she is a collaborator.

And to close it was the turn of Keith Allen, with pantomime horse in tow, to join the band on stage, for football anthem *World in Motion* — which had "Eng-er-land" reverberating across the site.

A showstopping set, impressing fans and other onlookers alike.

Rating: ★★★★★

CHLOE RIGBY

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Muddy marvellous: Worthy Farm's mud became the must-have fashion accessory of the weekend

until 6pm on Saturday and crews remained on standby in case of further need.

However, Sunday proved sunny and hot, with mud baking hard and making going easy on the last day.

All the agencies involved in policing the festival said the event had gone smoothly, with contingency plans swinging into place when flooding hit.

A Mendip District Council spokesman said there had been no incidents to threaten the licence in future years, and that while six complaints about noise had been received from outside the festival none had proved justified.

Sgt Davey said that, as of Sunday morning, there had been 84 recorded offences, down by 40 per cent from last year's 141.

On top of that there were 183 drugs offences, many coming to light through improved security and bag searches on the gates.

There were 93 arrests, involving alleged offences such as theft from tents and criminal damage to tents through to drugs offences.

Meanwhile of the 2,094 people treated by the onsite medical services for complaints from sunstroke to falls, only 32 had been taken off site.

Organisers are already looking ahead to their next festival, in 2007, since next year will be a "fallow" year.

Yesterday Mr Eavis said he did not know who would headline, but he said Kylie Minogue, who pulled out of headlining this year's event because of breast cancer, would be welcome to play in future, and predicted there could be other headliners among upcoming groups who played this time, including Kaiser Chiefs, Razorlight and Bloc Party.

He added that he was not going to be calling U2 any more – they could call him if they wanted to play, he said.

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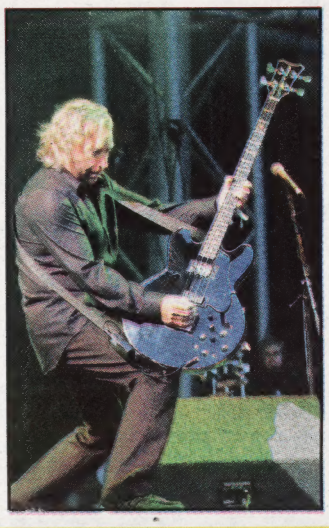

Keane, Pyramid Stage

THERE was no doubt that Keane were delighted to be on the Pyramid Stage at this year's Glastonbury Festival.

Frontman Tom Chaplin bounded around the stage throughout the set, beaming out at the thousands looking back at him and again and again telling them what a special sight it was.

The band rose to the occasion with enthusiasm and energy.

Songs including crowd favourites *Falling With Your Eyes Open* and *Everything's Changing* showcased the trademark Keane romanticism, with slow-burn, gradually swelling melodies lifting the audience.

The audience joined in with *Bed Shaped* and *This is the Last Time*, putting their hearts into it almost as much as the performers.

Seeing 60,000 people join in with your songs was, said Chaplin, an amazing sight.

This was music at its most soulful — in the old-fashioned sense of the word — and a real crowd pleasing set.

Rating: ★★★★☆

CHLOE RIGBY

Brian Wilson, The Pyramid Stage

ON Sunday, the summer returned to Glastonbury.

With the sun beating down and seagulls circling overhead, Brian Wilson and his band met the mood perfectly.

The endless summers of the 1960s were brought back with a succession of hits including *Good Vibrations*, *California Girls*, *Surfer Girl* and *God Only Knows*.

Wilson, backed by his large new band gave the songs a full orchestra feel and thrilled the crowd.

Songs from *Smile* were met with enthusiasm while the set ended with hits including *Barbara Ann*; *Fun, Fun, Fun* and *Surfing USA* which had the audience singing, clapping and dancing for all they were worth.

After two days of rain, followed by mud, Wilson brought a much needed up-beat celebration back to the Glastonbury Festival.

Rating: ★★★★★

CHLOE RIGBY

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